

EXHIBIT A

**Application of New Lightyear for
Certificate of Local and Interexchange Authority**

Docket No. _____

ICC Office Use Only

Lightyear Network Solutions, LLC :
: Application for a certificate of :
local and interexchange authority :
to operate as a reseller and facilities :
based carrier of telecommunications :
services in all areas in the :
State of Illinois. :

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE TO BECOME A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

GENERAL

Applicant's Name(including d/b/a, if any) FEIN # 38-3693425

Lightyear Network Solutions, LLC ("New Lightyear" or "Applicant")

Address: Street 1901 Eastpoint Parkway

City Louisville State/Zip Kentucky 40223

1. Authority Requested: (Mark all that apply) X 13-403 Facilities Based Interexchange
X 13-404 Resale of Local and/or Interexchange
X 13-405 Facilities Based Local
2. Request for waivers/variances: In applications for exchange service authority under Sections 13-404 or 13-405, waivers of Part 710 and of Section 735.180 of Part 735 are generally requested. In applications for interexchange service authority under Sections 13-403 and 13-404, waivers of Part 710 and Part 735 are generally requested. Please indicate which waivers Applicant is requesting and explain why Applicant is requesting each waiver/variance.

X Part 710 Uniform System of Accounts for Telecommunications Carriers

X Part 735 Procedures Governing the Establishment of Credit, Billing, Deposits, Termination of Service and Issuance of Telephone Directories for Local Exchange Telecommunications Carriers in the State of Illinois

X Section 735.180 Directories

 Other

Applicant requests authorization pursuant to 83 Ill. Admin. Code Part 250 to maintain its books and records outside the State of Illinois at its principal place of business in Kentucky.

Applicant also requests a waiver of 83 Ill. Admin. Code § 725.500(o), which requires that call boxes be installed on a local exchange carrier's ("LEC") switch in order to allow a Public Safety Answering Position ("PSAP") employee to field 911 calls from that switch in the event of a trunking problem between the central office and the PSAP. This requirement is appropriate when applied to incumbent local exchange carriers, who have switching equipment installed in virtually all of their central offices. It would be technically infeasible (and logistically impossible) for a PSAP employee to field calls from Applicant's switch in the event of a trunking problem between Applicant and the tandem through which Applicant will route 9-1-1 calls. Therefore, Applicant requests that it be exempted from complying with this requirement. Although the call box requirement is not appropriately applied to Applicant, Applicant will ensure that it can process all emergency calls with a high degree of reliability.

3. For all applicants requesting local exchange authority under Section 13-404 or Section 13-405, please complete the following:
- (a) the Standard Questions for Applicants Seeking Local Exchange Service Authority found in Appendix A of this document; and
 - (b) the 9-1-1 Questions for Applicants Seeking Local Exchange Service Authority found in Appendix B of this document; and
 - (c) the Financial Questions for Applicants Seeking Local Exchange Authority found in Appendix C of this document; and
 - (d) if applicable, the Prepaid Service Questions for Applicants Seeking Local Exchange Service Authority found in Appendix D of this document.

Please see Exhibit E.

4. In what area of the state does the Applicant propose to provide service?

New Lightyear seeks authority to provide telecommunications service throughout the State of Illinois. Applicant currently does not intend to provide local exchange services in the service areas of any exempt small or rural incumbent local exchange carriers.

5. Please attach a sheet designating contact persons to work with Staff on the following:

- a) issues related to processing this application
- b) consumer issues
- c) customer complaint resolution
- d) technical and service quality issues
- e) "tariff" and pricing issues
- f) 9-1-1 issues
- g) security/law enforcement

Please identify each contact person's (i) name, (ii) title, (iii) mailing address, (iv) telephone number, (v) facsimile number, and (vi) e-mail address, if any.

Please see Exhibit F.

7. Please check type of organization?

☐ Individual
☐ Partnership

☒ Corporation
Date corporation was formed 11/20/03
In what state? Kentucky

____ Other (Limited Liability Company)
Date formed _____
In what state? _____

8. Submit a copy of articles of incorporation and a copy of certificate of authority to transact business in Illinois.

Attached hereto as Exhibit G is a copy of New Lightyear's articles of organization. New Lightyear's application for authority to transact business is attached hereto as Exhibit H.

9. List jurisdictions in which Applicant is offering service(s).

New Lightyear currently holds no permits, licenses, or certificates to provide telecommunications services in any state. New Lightyear is currently in the process of seeking authorization to transfer the operations of Lightyear Communications, Inc. ("Lightyear") and Lightyear Telecommunications LLC. ("LLC", and collectively with Lightyear, the "Lightyear Companies"), which are authorized to provide local exchange and/or interexchange telecommunications services in the following states:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alabama | Montana |
| Arkansas | North Carolina |
| Arizona | North Dakota |
| California | Nebraska |
| Colorado | New Hampshire |
| Connecticut | New Jersey |
| District of Columbia | New Mexico |
| Delaware | Nevada |
| Florida | New York |
| Georgia | Ohio |
| Hawaii | Oklahoma |
| Iowa | Oregon |
| Idaho | Pennsylvania |
| Illinois | Rhode Island |
| Indiana | South Carolina |
| Kansas | South Dakota |
| Kentucky | Tennessee |
| Louisiana | Lightyear |
| Massachusetts | Utah |
| Maryland | Virginia |
| Maine | Vermont |
| Michigan | Washington |
| Minnesota | Wisconsin |
| Missouri | West Virginia |
| Mississippi | Wyoming |

10. Has the Applicant, or any principal in Applicant, been denied a Certificate of Service or had its certification revoked or suspended in any jurisdiction in this or another name?

____ YES (Please provide details) ☒ NO

11. Have there been any complaints or judgments levied against the Applicant in any other jurisdiction?

☐ YES ☒ NO

If YES, describe fully. Not Applicable.

12. Has Applicant provided service under any other name?

☐ YES ☒ NO

If YES, please list.

13. Will the Applicant keep its books and records in Illinois? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If NO, permission pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code Part 250 needs to be requested.

As noted in the response to Question 3 above, Applicant requests authorization pursuant to 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 250 to maintain its books and records outside the State of Illinois, at its principal place of business in Kentucky.

MANAGERIAL

14. Please attach evidence of the applicant's managerial and technical resources and ability to provide service. This may be in either narrative form, resumes of key personnel, or a combination of these forms.

Please see discussion in Sections I.A.1 and 2 of the Joint Application. Also attached as Exhibit B are biographies of the management team.

15. List officers of Applicant.

The expected future officers of New Lightyear are:

J. Sherman Henderson, III, President and Chief Executive Officer
John J. Greive, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel
G. Henry Hunt, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing
Edward J. Wampler, Senior Vice President of Operations
Elaine G. Bush, Vice President of Finance
Rena Phillips, Vice President of Operations
Kevin Shady, Vice President of Local Development
Timothy J. Morgan, Vice President of Information Technology
J. Clay Masters, Vice President of Sales
Josh Henderson, Vice President of Sales

16. Does any officer of Applicant have an ownership or other interest in any other entity which has provided or is currently providing telecommunications services?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If YES, list entity. Lightyear Communications, Inc. and Lightyear Telecommunications LLC

17. How will Applicant bill for its service(s)? (At a minimum, describe how often the Applicant will bill for services and details of the billings statement.)

Like the Lightyear Companies, New Lightyear will collect and process on a daily basis all usage information from its own network and from the networks of third party providers. The actual process of applying rating and taxing information to the millions of individual message units generated each month, and of generating invoice print files, is going to be outsourced to a third-party.

18. How does Applicant propose to handle service, billing, and repair complaints? (At a minimum, describe Applicant's internal process for complaint resolution, the complaint escalation process, the timeframe and process by which the customer is notified by Applicant that they may seek assistance from the Commission?)

Customers with billing/repair questions or complaints may reach New Lightyear at its toll-free number (800) 805-8383. Customers may also send written complaints to 1901 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40223. In the event of a billing dispute, New Lightyear will perform a review of the disputed billing amount and promptly attempt to reach a settlement to the mutual satisfaction of all parties. Following a full investigation to determine whether or not the charges may have been fraudulent or improper, New Lightyear may adjust the disputed bill.

19. Will personnel be available at applicant's business office during regular working hours to respond to inquiries about service or billing? ☒ YES ☐ NO

20. What telephone number(s) would a customer use to contact your company?

Customers with billing questions or complaints may reach New Lightyear at its toll-free number (800) 805-8383.

21. Will applicant abide by all Federal and State slamming and cramming laws pursuant to Section 13-902 of the Public Utilities Act and Section 258 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act?

☒ YES ☐ NO

22. Please describe applicant's procedures to prevent slamming and cramming of customers.

New Lightyear will comply with applicable Illinois law as well as Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") regulations regarding how carriers may change a consumer's Primary Interexchange Carrier ("PIC"). Applicant will also comply with the FCC's regulations regarding how carriers may change a consumer's primary local exchange provider.

23. If granted authority to operate as a local exchange carrier, will the applicant abide by the following 83 Illinois Administrative Code Parts: 705, 710, 720, 725, 735, 755, 756, 757, 770, and 772?

☒ YES ☐ NO (If no, please provide an explanation.)

Applicant will abide by all of the above referenced Illinois Administrative Code Parts except those from which it seeks a waiver in this Application. (Please see response to Question 3 above.)

24. Is Applicant aware that it must file tariffs prior to providing service in Illinois?

☒ YES ☐ NO

FINANCIAL

25. Please attach evidence of applicant's financial fitness through the submission of its most current income statement and balance sheet, or other appropriate documentation of applicant's financial resources and ability to provide service.

Please see Exhibit C and discussion in Section I.A.3 of the Joint Application.

TECHNICAL

26. Does Applicant utilize its own equipment and/or facilities? ☒ YES ☐ NO
If YES, please list:

New Lightyear plans to utilize the telecommunications equipment of Lightyear Companies. This equipment will connect New Lightyear's leased and owned networks to its targeted customers, end offices, tandems, and interexchange carrier networks. As each customer is obtained, service will be provisioned on New Lightyear's own switching equipment and/or by leasing transmission facilities provided by other carriers.

If NO, which facility provider(s)'s services does Applicant use?

27. Please describe the nature of service to be provided (e.g., operator services, internet, debit cards, long distance service, local service).

New Lightyear will provide all services currently offered by Lightyear Companies and seeks authority that mirrors the authority currently held by Lightyear Companies.

28. Will technical personnel be available at all times to assist customers with service problems?
☒ YES ☐ NO

29. If Applicant intends to provide payphone service, will the equipment utilized comply with FCC requirements and Finding of the Commission Order entered in Docket No. 84-0442 on June 11, 1986, including, but not limited to: (a) touch dialing; (b) access to 9-1-1 and "0" operator dialing without use of a coin; (c) rules governing use of payphones by disabled persons; (d) ability to complete local and long-distance calls; (e) unlimited duration for local calls; and (f) a message explaining the telephone's general operations, dialing instructions for emergency assistance, payphone owner's name, method of reporting service problems and method of receiving credit for faulty calls?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Not Applicable. Applicant does not currently intend to provide payphone service in Illinois.